

## NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR.

THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the year. Four cents per copy. Twelve dollars per year, or one dollar per month, free of postage.

All business, news letters or telegraphic despatches must be addressed New York Herald.

Letters and packages should be properly sealed. Rejected communications will not be returned.

PHILADELPHIA OFFICE—NO. 112 SOUTH SIXTH STREET.

LONDON OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD—NO. 46 FLEET STREET.

PARIS OFFICE—AVENUE DE L'OPERA. Subscriptions and advertisements will be received and forwarded on the same terms as in New York.

VOLUME XLII.....—NO. 136

## AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

**PARK THEATRE.**  
BRASS, at 8 P. M. Mr. George Fawcett Rows.  
**CHATEAU MABILLE VARIETIES.**  
at 8 P. M.  
**OLYMPIC THEATRE.**  
HUMPTY DUMPTY, at 8 P. M.  
**PARISIAN VARIETIES.**  
at 8 P. M.  
**GERMANIA THEATRE.**  
DAS MAEDEL OINE GELD, at 8 P. M.  
**KELLY & LEON'S MINSTRELS.**  
at 8 P. M.  
**THIRTY-FOURTH STREET OPERA HOUSE.**  
VARIETY, at 8 P. M.  
**FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.**  
PIQUE, at 8 P. M. Fanny Davenport.  
**GLOBE THEATRE.**  
VARIETY, at 8 P. M.  
**WOODS MUSEUM.**  
UNDER THE GALLIES, at 8 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.  
**BROOKLYN THEATRE.**  
PRIDE, at 8 P. M. Charlotte Thompson.  
**SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.**  
at 8 P. M.  
**THEATRE COMIQUE.**  
VARIETY, at 8 P. M.  
**CENTRAL PARK GARDEN.**  
ORCHESTRA, QUARTET, at 8 P. M.  
**GILMORE'S GARDEN.**  
GRAND CONCERT, at 8 P. M. Offenbach.  
**WALLACK'S THEATRE.**  
LONDON ASSURANCE, at 8 P. M. Lester Wallack.  
**TONY PASTOR'S NEW THEATRE.**  
VARIETY, at 8 P. M.  
**UNION SQUARE THEATRE.**  
CONSCIENCE, at 8 P. M. C. R. Thorne, Jr.  
**EAGLE THEATRE.**  
VARIETY, at 8 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

## TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 15, 1876.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be warmer and cloudy, with, possibly, rain.

NOTICE TO COUNTRY NEWSDEALERS.—For prompt and regular delivery of the HERALD by fast mail trains orders must be sent direct to this office. Postage free.

THE BERLIN CAB SYSTEM is exhaustively treated in a letter from the German capital published in another portion of the HERALD. It will repay the attention of the capitalists and hack owners of New York.

A PARADOX.—The most sensible man who has had anything to do with the Beecher case is the Rev. Dr. Taylor, of the Broadway Tabernacle, and that is because he would have nothing to do with it at all.

THE IMPERIAL MEMORANDUM which was the outcome of the conference at Berlin is said to look to a lengthened armistice in Herzegovina and some concerted naval measures for the protection of the Christians of Salonica and other threatened points.

A CONNECTICUT CENTENARIAN.—The reminiscences of Mrs. Ira Mead, of Greenwich, Conn., who has attained the remarkable age of one hundred and six years, are given elsewhere, and will be found of wonderful interest now in their glimpses of life during the war for independence.

DOLLARS TALK.—It was a happy and conclusive answer which the Prefect of Vaucluse made to the member who objected to the objects of the Franco-American Union on the ground that America showed ingratitude to France during the late war. The Prefect pointed to \$440,000 sent from this country to be devoted to the care of the French sick and wounded.

THE BROOKLYN THIEVES who are alleged to have carried off the entire furniture of the lower part of a house without attracting the attention of the inmates, who were temporarily on the third story, must receive a diploma of felony ranking very close to the men who steal entire railroads.

THE FRENCH REPUBLICANS are becoming more and more satisfied with the government of MacMahon, the appointment of M. de Marcere to the portfolio of the Interior giving them great pleasure. They are learning how to wait to win the substance which is usually near its shadow, and the Republic until the late elections was little but a shadow.

THE DEAD OF THE WAR.—On Tuesday, the 30th inst., the beautiful ceremony of decorating the graves of the soldiers will take place, and already the preparations are on foot. Elsewhere will be found the general order of the Grand Army of the Republic relating to this event.

THE DANGERS of the Banks of Newfoundland, on account of the almost perpetual fogs, are again illustrated in the case of the French schooner, *Jenne Anguste*, sunk by the steamer *Rhein*. It is greatly to be feared that steamer captains, becoming accustomed to the passage, and emboldened by past immunity, do not keep a proper lookout ahead. Vessels before now have steamed at full speed through the thickest fogs on the Banks, and officers have been found to defend this mad practice on the ground that the greater their speed the less would they be injured in a collision.

FOR OUR RIFLEMEN'S EDUCATION we present in another column the full scores of the practice shooting of some of the Irish gentlemen who may come here in the team to compete for the Centennial trophy in the fall. The scores are not extraordinarily high, 186 out of 225 being the best; but as this was the first practice of the season it shows that our riflemen will have to work hard to retain their laurels. The winner in the contest of Saturday at Creedmoor only scored 179 out of the same possible total, but allowance must be made for the strong and variable wind that prevailed.

## The Fifth Avenue Conference.

The meeting to-day of a number of gentlemen of more or less distinction, from different parts of the country, to confer on the political situation and advise their fellow citizens, will be more respectable than efficient. It assembles in compliance with invitations sent by Mr. Schurz, Mr. Bryant, President Woolsey and ex-Governor Bullock, and it is given out that more than one hundred of the individuals receiving invitations have signified their acceptance. It will consist mostly of thoughtful, studious gentlemen who have never had or have lost a connection with active politics, and whose counsels their countrymen have not been accustomed to follow or have ceased to follow. They are exotics in the politics of to-day, and, like other exotics, they will not thrive in the ordinary outdoor atmosphere where "the winds of heaven may visit them too roughly." Closet politicians, like hothouse plants, lack the hardiness and strength of fibre which can stand against those accidents of the weather whose bruising roughness fortifies such growths as are indigenous to the soil. American politics have never been much influenced by secluded men of culture, nor by small knots of individuals acting outside of the regular party organizations, unless, like the old abolitionists, they were inspired by a fiery burning zeal for some great idea, which challenged and aroused an opposition as fierce as their advocacy. We cannot see that this new movement has within it any principle of life.

The meeting at the Fifth Avenue Hotel differs from an ordinary political convention in the fact that its members do not represent any constituencies. None of them is authorized to speak for anybody but himself. The conference will neither have the spirit and power of a mass meeting, which is itself a constituency acting in its primary capacity and giving ocular demonstration of its numbers, nor will it have the influence which belongs to a convention of delegates, each of whom represents a constituency whose sentiments he is empowered to declare. It would not be quite correct to say that the members of the Fifth Avenue Conference are self-elected, for they have been chosen by the three or four gentlemen who addressed the invitations. This little knot of originators is the real constituency of the members, which reverses the ordinary rule that a representative body is less numerous than the people who choose it, and stands, like a pyramid, on a broad base of popular numbers. This conference resembles an inverted pyramid poised on its apex. One hundred and odd individuals were chosen to represent the four gentlemen who selected the persons to be invited, and three of these four were selected by Mr. Schurz, who is the real author of the movement; which reduces the apex on which the inverted pyramid stands to a very sharp point. Ordinarily a political convention is created by the election of delegates, who, in turn, elect other delegates, the structure tapering as it rises from the broad popular constituencies to the small number who actually transact the business in their representative capacity. But this meeting rests on Mr. Schurz as its ultimate constituency, and, so far as it has a representative character, it represents only him. Like wider constituencies he has chosen delegates known to be in harmony with his views. The meeting is simply the unit, Mr. Schurz, with ciphers enough annexed to make him count one hundred.

A list of the gentlemen to whom invitations were sent has not been published, but when they assemble it will probably be found that they consist of two classes—namely, of political soreheads, like Mr. Schurz himself, who have been remanded to private life by unappreciative constituencies or severance of party ties, and, secondly, of respectable, worthy gentlemen who have never been in politics and are destitute of the skill and experience requisite for acting strongly on the popular mind in an absorbing political canvass. Mr. Schurz himself has great gifts, but they are not gifts for leadership. While he was a member of the republican party in good standing he held an eminent and enviable position among the advocates of measures adopted by the controlling minds of the party. When he first broke with the administration he proved a serviceable lieutenant of Senator Sumner in his successful assault on the St. Domingo job. But in every attempt of Mr. Schurz to shape a policy, instead of accepting and advocating one marked out by others, he has come to grief. He was one of the foremost originators of the Cincinnati Convention in 1872, and his leadership was recognized by electing him as its president; but the unexpected result of its deliberations filled him with chagrin and indignation. He could not, even with the aid of its large German vote, mould the politics of Missouri into such a form as would give him even a chance for re-election to the Senate, of which he was so bright an ornament. He was born to be a brilliant lieutenant, but not a leader. When, last fall, he consented to fall back into his old rôle of an advocate, and, after the issue of the canvass had been made up, returned from Europe to speak on the republican side in Ohio, he gave a splendid demonstration of the greatness of his talents in a part that fitted him. He can never be successful in politics except as an orator acting with a political party and supporting by his eloquence the policy and measures determined on by managers who excel him as strategists. Had he remained in the republican party and kept its confidence he might have exerted a hundred-fold more influence in causing it to select a candidate of high integrity than he can through any such machinery as he is now trying to organize.

The declared purpose of the conference at the Fifth Avenue Hotel is to act on the national conventions of the two regular parties, and cause them to select honest men for Presidential candidates. But what inducement can these respectable gentlemen hold out, or what menace can they make, that anybody will be likely to heed at Cincinnati or St. Louis? They may proclaim their purpose to withhold their votes from unfit candidates; but what will that amount to when they have no constituencies behind them whom they can bind by their de-

cision? The only votes they can dispose of are their own, and the attempt to influence politics with so small a capital is as if a child with a cupful of sugar and a teaspoon should attempt to sweeten the bitter salt waters of the ocean. Who cares for politicians that have no personal following? Who will mind how these well meaning gentlemen threaten to vote when they separate and scatter to their homes in ten or twenty different States? Mr. Schurz can cast one vote in Missouri, Mr. Bryant one vote in New York, President Woolsey one in Connecticut, Governor Bullock one in Massachusetts, and the other gentlemen in like manner. But the gossamer's wing is not lighter than the influence they can exert in politics by a declaration that they will vote for nobody but Bristow on one side or Tilden on the other. Votes are not weighed, but counted, and the influence of a politician is measured by the number of votes he is thought able to control.

We have had considerable experience in late years of small cliques of men making reform their shibboleth and acting outside of the regular parties, but the usual result has not been such as to prepossess the public in favor of this sort of politics. John Cochrane has led such a squad for many years, making himself a butt and laughing stock for both parties. We have an annual crop of such movements in the local politics of this city, and the interpretation commonly put on them is that their authors are in the political market to be bought out. The gentlemen who got up this conference are exempted by their character from such a suspicion, and even if they were not so high toned and disinterested as we all know them to be, they would still be exempt by the fact that they have no votes to dispose of. But it is none the less true that outside political movements on the approach of an election are not in high esteem and that in the few instances when they are not sordid they seldom accomplish any other end than giving a certain kind of transient notoriety to the men who engineer them.

## The Cristofori Festival.

The musical festival which recently occurred in Florence, and which was designed to do honor to the memory of Bartolomeo Cristofori, is an event of more than passing interest to the musical world. Our special cable despatch from Florence, published in yesterday's HERALD, gave an account of the assemblage of pianists in the city where the most wonderful of instruments received its principal characteristics from the hands of Cristofori. One hundred and sixty-five years have elapsed since the Florentine musician first introduced small hammers in place of quills to strike the keys of the instrument which he called pianoforte, and, although many improvements were still necessary and much labor, industry and experiments had to be devoted to the task before the noble grand piano of the present day was attained, yet the invention of the Italian must be regarded as the principal feature in the history of the piano. The clavichord, clavicitherium, virginal, harpsichord, spinet, and the other predecessors of the piano, with their jacks and quills, would scarcely be tolerated by any musical ear at the present day, although on the harpsichord were developed some of the finest inspirations of Handel, Haydn, the Bachs, Mozart and Clementi. The tone has been wittily compared to "a kind of scratch with a sound at the end of it." The influence that the piano wields in the parlor or the concert hall is unbounded, as on no other instrument can the inspired thoughts of the great masters of music be conveyed with such effect. It is the epitome of an orchestra, and melody and harmonious combination can be expressed by the pianist in endless variety, independent of the aid of others. The festival at Florence, therefore, is one of particular interest to all who have music in their souls.

## The Sermons Yesterday.

A great many of our preachers yesterday, by a coincidence not very extraordinary but yet worthy of note, dwelt upon this life as a preparation for the life to come. Indeed, when doctrinal hair-splitting is laid aside and the great festivals of Christianity do not engross the attention of priests and congregations, it is natural that the teachers should revert to the conditions under which man in his brief breathing space must make himself worthy of that blissful psychic translation which Christianity promises when time is no more to the creature of the earth. Catholic, Baptist, Congregationalist and Universalist agree in our columns that more or less to merit salvation man must move on his pathway through the world with the greatest attainable purity of thought, word and deed. There is a divine, infinite mercy which is capable indeed of washing out all transgressions, so far as they relate to the next existence, and the sectarian differences of opinion chiefly occupy themselves with the amount or quality of the human endeavor which will suffice to let that mercy operate. But no matter how much the sects differ on this point, all plead for uprightness and purity of life. To examine all this more carefully we would refer our Christian readers to the reports of the sermons of Dr. Armitage, Dr. Hepworth, Father Farrelly, Mr. Pullman and Father Byron. Mr. Beecher yesterday preached what may be described as his Pan-Christian sermon—his sympathy with all denominations of the followers of Christ—which may be summed up in the significant sentence:—"I take the liberty of loving what is lovable and letting the rest alone." The semi-centennial of St. Mary's Roman Catholic church, which was celebrated yesterday, is an evidence of the steady growth of that church in this country.

SEEKING THE CENTENNIAL.—It will be well for all our citizens who can afford it to visit the great Exhibition at Philadelphia, and to make their arrangements ahead. We suggest this to parents in view of the case of young Charley Brown, who, not being certain of his father's intentions, solved the matter by taking forty odd dollars and starting "to see the show" for himself. If Charley had thought he was going in the regular order it might not have cost his parent half the sum.

## The Improvement at the Mississippi Mouth.

Since the commencement of operations under the direction of Captain Eads a considerable improvement has been effected in the navigation of the South Pass, and it is now claimed that ships of sixteen feet draught can traverse it at mean high water without any difficulty. By means of embankments formed of mattress work, protected by sheet piling, the channel of the South Pass has been so narrowed that the water volume flowing through it has dredged the bed clear of a large portion of the mud deposit, and Captain Eads asserts that there is now good reason to expect a complete removal of the bar obstructing this mouth of the Mississippi by the action of the constantly increasing volume of water. But a grave question arises in connection with the ultimate deposit of the mud thus removed from the mouth and channel of the South Pass, as it is asserted that a new formation or deposit has been recently discovered to exist several hundred feet to seaward of the lower terminus of operations, and which is believed to be due to the accumulation of the mud that has been dredged by the river current as above described. Regarding this important discovery we will express our opinion by repeating the warning of the HERALD on the 6th and 8th of last September, when the commission of engineers was in session in New York, to consider the jetty scheme and determine finally the plan of operations. Referring to the danger of an overhasty action on the plans, the HERALD editorial article says:—"Irretrievable errors may not become apparent until a vast amount of harm has been accomplished; indeed, a temporary success may crown the efforts of the engineers at certain points on the sphere of their operations, only to render the evils sought to be abated irremediable." And again, suggesting the very difficulty that is now believed to have presented itself outside the mouth of the South Pass, "A gradual closing up, by deposit, of the Southwest and South Passes of the river which will in time open on an area of slack water between the Gulf Stream and the shore line." These remarks were based on our belief that the selection of the South Pass for the proposed jetty improvement was not a wise one, the project being intended, we presume, as a work of utility and not of mere experiment. The latter reference in the article quoted is intended to show what would happen if the Mississippi was permitted to adjust its outlets in accordance with the natural eastward trending of its channel below Baton Rouge, which point marks the limit of the general southward flow of the river. The obliteration of the old western outlets by filling up shows that if advantage is to be taken of the enormous volume of the river waters to render their outlets navigable, only those that exhibit and favor the natural tendency of the river should be selected and improved. It is impossible to force the Mississippi to follow a perfectly straight course, such as that represented by the line from the forts to the mouth of the South Pass. The Southwest Pass presents a more favorable line, discharging as it does in the general direction of the littoral current which is calculated on to remove the excavated mud from the river into deep water. We publish to-day a card from Captain Eads addressed to objectors to his scheme, in which he presents the latest phases of the improvement. We would deplore the failure of the Eads jetty plan in this instance, but we are of opinion that its failure would be in application instead of principle, because of the injudicious selection of the South Pass.

## Liberty and the Women.

Some of the women who want more freedom, or some of the masculine shriekers who help the women to make a noise under that pretence, deem it incongruous that Liberty should be figured always as a woman and that woman should never be free. They should understand, however, that the plastic and the graphic arts, which endeavor to present to the eye, by visible forms, abstract ideas or conceptions that are themselves without substance and consequently without form, do not presume to adhere to strict fidelity in likeness. They picture one thing by another from the fancy that they are alike in certain conspicuous attributes. Thus all men associate with Liberty the idea of beauty. They "hold it as a thing enskied and sainted." It is also as perishable as it is fair and ever in need of defenders, and in its cause men in all times of human history have been ready to lay down their lives. For all these reasons what is more to the point than that Liberty should be pictured in the form of a woman? Therefore, let the artists continue; but we hereby expressly direct that not one of them shall ever make her in the form of a woman's rights woman, lest the world should fall in love with slavery.

## Professional Paupers.

One of the biggest nuisances of modern society is the high-toned beggar, who does not admit his disagreeable mendicancy. A good square beggar is, in comparison, respectable. There is something to admire in a beggar who confesses to the fact. Edie Ochiltree, the old gaberlunzie, in Scott's novel of "The Antiquary," belonged to this class, and was proud of living upon the general alms of the public. But the genteel paupers of our day prey upon their acquaintances and friends. Too lazy to work for their living in any useful way, they work as hard as horses to gain it by scheming. They regard their friends as adventurers do gold mines, and are always prospecting for some new "lead." It is difficult to deal with this high-toned professional beggary, which approaches its victim with the appearance of equality and robs him with all the politeness of a thief. The noble beggar who calls you "Captain" and asks boldly for money to buy a drink, the tramp who demands food and shelter, the professional woman, with some one else's child, can be easily dealt with. They can be gratified or dismissed, because they admit their mendicancy. But there is no protection from the beggar who

is not a beggar, but an acquaintance. The number of such people is immense, and they fill all the capitals of America and Europe. They claim to be ladies or gentlemen and move in the best society, but they are worse enemies to its comfort and peace than all the professional beggars that infest the streets or prowl around the basement doors. The old song is right in telling us how the dogs bark because the beggars are coming to town, some in rags, some in jags and some in a velvet gown. They come in various ways and garments, and those who wear velvet and broadcloth are the most persistent and insatiable of all.

## Short Sermons.

The time is past when the value of a sermon was measured by its length. In the old-fashioned days of New England theology people liked quantity as well as quality, and took the punishment of the "seventy-second of the seventy-fourth" with the patience of prize fighters. Yet even these solemn people must have sometimes yawned at the preacher tediously expounded interminable subdivisions of his discourse. Now any necessity for long sermons—if ever any existed—is removed by newspapers and books. The old conditions of society are broken up; the world learns religion as it does everything else, more from the printed page than from oral teaching. When the Rev. Norman Macleod preached before the royal family of England the Prince Consort sent him word to please make his sermon not longer than twenty minutes, but he refused to take instructions and made it more than forty. The Prince was kind enough to say afterward that he wished it had been longer. But the case was an exception. Dr. Macleod was a great orator, and none but great orators are privileged to take liberties with their auditors. As a rule any intelligent clergyman who preaches once a week on well known subjects can say all that should be said in half an hour. Condensation, clearness, point, convey a doctrine or a plea better than elaborate discussions. If the Jews were forty years wandering in the wilderness is that any reason why a clergyman should take forty minutes to describe their sufferings in the journey? When he preaches on eternal punishment he should not make his sermon the proof as well as the argument of its existence. The most successful pulpit orators in modern times are those who comprehend how the methods of religious teaching have been modified by the influence of the press. The sermons of the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, of Trinity church, are models of brevity, force and effectiveness. They owe their power greatly to their concentration, and it would be much better for the Church—and we include all the creeds and sects—if this excellent example were more generally followed.

## The Case of Collector Buckner.

Mr. Buckner is Collector of Internal Revenue in Louisville. He is a man of substance and character, and there is, so far as we know, no suspicion that he has done wrong. The law (Revised Statutes, section 3,148) allows every collector to appoint his deputies and to remove them at his pleasure, which is a most just and necessary rule to secure responsibility; and the statute adds:—"Each collector shall, in every respect, be responsible, both to the United States and to individuals, as the case may be, for all monies collected and for every act done or neglected to be done by any of his deputies while acting as such," which is, of course, only just.

Mr. Buckner selected as one of his deputies a person who made away with sixty-five thousand dollars of the government funds in Mr. Buckner's hands. Of course it is a misfortune for Mr. Buckner, and we are sorry for him. But that is one of the risks he took when he accepted the office. His estate is sufficient or nearly so to cover the deficiency, and his bondsmen are good for it all, the bonds being for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. But Mr. Buckner now appeals to Congress to relieve him from loss, and the Ways and Means Committee is considering his case, and, as we hear, a number of others of the same kind. We trust the committee will report against him and all such petitions. We do not doubt Mr. Buckner's entire honesty, but he was not compelled to take the office. If he undertook the responsibilities in return for the honors and salaries it is not right that the government, which means the taxpayers, should now bear the loss inflicted by his carelessness or lack of business qualifications. There has been too much of this kind of relief, and by giving it Congress demoralizes the public service and invites incompetent men to seek for responsible places.

The law provides the course to be pursued in such cases. The Revised Statutes, section 3,217, declare that "when any collector fails either to collect or to render his account or to pay over within the manner or within the times provided by law, the First Comptroller of the Treasury shall immediately after evidence of such delinquency report the same to the Solicitor of the Treasury, who shall issue a warrant of distress against such delinquent, directed to the marshal of the district," and so forth. No doubt the Comptroller and Solicitor of the Treasury have done their duty, and we trust Congress will leave this and other cases to be dealt with according to law. The people will not be satisfied to see it dealing loosely with the officers who collect the taxes. A good many people in these days find it very difficult to pay their taxes.

## The Centennial Exhibition.

The great Exhibition at Philadelphia continues to form the chief subject of interest for press and public, and bids fair to attain all the success which its projectors hope for. In it we have a splendid expression of patriotism and a marvellous proof of our progress as a people within the first century of the nation's existence. No mere word pictures can convey an adequate idea of the extent, beauty and happy arrangement of this grand collection of trophies from the fields where human genius wars against and conquers the physical obstacles with which jealous Nature surrounds and guards her secret treasures. Art and Science, the handmaidens of civilization, are there presented to an admiring world, and

the great industries of the earth are held up to our gaze in the splendor of the results they have produced. The giant steam engine which moves the miles of shafting that transmit its power to the countless forms of machinery—the cunning combinations of wheel, crank and lever that work such wonders under our eyes—is a perfect type of the great moral, social and political lever represented by the Exhibition in which it is placed. A little more than a year ago the metal of which this great engine is formed was lying in the bowels of the earth, buried under a mountain of matter which apparently placed it beyond the possible reach of man. And yet here is the ore transformed into an engine of vast power and dimensions. So with our Exhibition. We will make it the engine by which we will move the machinery of civilization and forge the links that will unite us in peace and harmony with the rest of the human race.

## The Blaine-Riddle Business.

The difficulty of attempting to "take the bull by the horns" is as great in the matter of charges made against a public man as in stopping the charge of a maddened steer by the same method. Mr. Blaine has been attempting this feat of late, and we fear has not come out as ungored and untumbled as he and his friends could wish. To stand up in the House and make a finely turned and clever speech in which all charges are met in the way he chooses is a mode of beating down accusation more slashing and suggestive of the free lance of medieval days than either conclusive or dignified. We may accept it as a melancholy fact that as soon as a man writes "candidate for the Presidency" upon his shield, he may expect every rivet of his moral armor to be sought out by his enemies or his rivals, and every weak spot, from morion to spur, to be pounded at by their maces. It would be hopeless for such a man to rush upon every antagonist that comes to the front, for if he has not that army of witnesses—his pure past and those who have beheld it—to speak for him, his flourish and caracole, "strange oaths" and fiery sallies, will tend to make him look more like a performer in the circus than anything else. To this pass Mr. Blaine has brought himself. The Riddle correspondence, to which he contributed his part with a mixture of patronizing friendliness and loud threat, reopens the story which he was at such pains to close in his famous speech. The letter of Mr. Riddle, which we print elsewhere, quotes the statements of several gentlemen, among whom is General Boynton, and puts the question of the identity of Mr. Blaine, in the alleged interview with Mr. Stewart, the lobbyist, in such a shape that Mr. Blaine can only answer it in a Congressional inquiry. Mr. Riddle's statement confines Knowlton's assertion within careful limits, and it appears to be strongly sustained by the corroborating witnesses.

## PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Mrs. Van Cotti is reviving in Iowa.  
Commodore Preble is in Portland, Me.  
John Kitts, of Chicago, is 108 years old.  
O'Donovan Rossa has gone to California.  
Lizet, the great pianist, has a Voltareira smile.  
Eight hundred girls attend Baptist colleges in Georgia.  
General Benjamin F. Butler attends Anna Dickinson's performances.  
Ex-Senator Milton H. Latham, of California, is rapidly recovering.  
George Eliot does not thoroughly know the customs of the best London society.  
Senator Frelinghuysen is tall and slim, and has a voice like an Aeolian harp.  
Bret Harte wears a little greyish hat not jauntily sidwile on his straggling iron-grey locks.  
Rubenstein, the pianist, gives the impression that he grows more awkward as he grows older.  
Mr. Harrison, the nominee of the Connecticut republicans for Senator, is a thorough Grant man.  
The Jacksonville (Fla.) Journal says that if the democratic nominee is not a Bourbon there will be a bolt.  
Speaker Kerr did not put Congressman Barsum, of Connecticut, upon the chairmanship of any committee.  
A Philadelphia writes to the Bangor (Me.) WAIG, claiming that Blaine will receive 333 votes on the first ballot.  
Colonel Peter Donohue, the wealthy Pacific Railroad potentate, in 1850 started a blacksmith shop in a tent at San Francisco.  
The San Francisco Post, Senator Jones' organ, informs the HERALD that California republicanism is not for Blaine, but for Bristow.  
Mr. Perry Gosselink, of New Jersey, has won considerable honors at Stuttgart, Germany, by the production of an orchestral composition.  
The Lockport (N. Y.) Journal thinks that Doorkeeper Fitzhugh ought to have opened the Centennial, because he is "a bigger man than old Grant."  
Bishop Simpson is massive, has square shoulders, a square face and a low, broad forehead. His voice is thin, high and powerful, and his eloquence is of the enthusiastic kind.  
The Illinois State Journal says that the robbery of Miss Sweet, the Chicago pension agent, was an open secret, known to the State managers, who concealed it for the benefit of the party.  
Mr. W. F. Rae will soon publish his "History of the United States." His reputation hitherto rests upon his study of English politics, under the title of "Wilkes, Sheridan, Fox."  
Congressman Garfield last summer was shown the habits of the Chinamen in San Francisco, and the night made him sick. He will probably use his influence to sustain Senator Sargent.  
Osgood & Co. have out a new centennial edition of Whittier's complete works, in one volume, at \$1, and will issue Tenneyson and Longfellow in centennial editions at the same price.  
Among Southerners there is an undercurrent of opinion which is in favor of a democratic candidate from the West. They say that the West, and not the East, is the true friend of the South.  
Says an English writer:—"The charm of Mr. Wilkie Collins' fictions is the subtle suggestion which they convey of the general insecurity of modern life, particularly that part of it which is transacted in suburban villas."  
The Utica Observer says that in the county of Oneida almost every Congressman for twenty years has expended money to obtain his election. Mr. Conkling did not, because he had none to spend, but he had rich friends to back him.  
Norwich Bulletin:—"Ruskin observes that as a rule women have no eye for color. This explains why a woman is obliged to spend three-quarters of a day in getting the exact shade of ribbon to trim a dress, while when it comes to mending her husband's pantaloons she seems to think that a yellow patch is just the thing to match black broadcloth."  
Among recent accomplished women writers on the fine arts is now enrolled Mrs. A. G. Radcliffe, an American, whose "Schools and Masters of Painting" is in Appleton's press. It will give a history of painting to the nineteenth century, with a descriptive guide to the great galleries of Florence, Rome, Madrid, Paris, London, Dresden, Munich and Berlin.  
Mr. B. H. Rhea and Mr. Joseph Watson were recently appointed by the Newport Historical Society a committee to confer with the society's president, Dr. King, in relation to the establishment of a board of trustees for that society, and as a result the following gentlemen have been elected to constitute that board—viz, General John Alfred Hazard, Mr. Benjamin Fish, Mr. William C. Clarke and Mr. William F. Sheffield.